



City of Cincinnati

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Date: July 30, 2007

Contact: Meg Olberding

Phone: (513) 352-5358; (513) 368-1083 cell; meg.Olberding@cincinnati-oh.gov

City of Cincinnati Hires New Director of Planning

New Director Returns to Cincinnati Service after 21 Year Absence

City Manager Milton Dohoney, Jr. announced today that Charles C. Graves III will begin his new position as the Director of Planning on September 4. One of Graves' first assignments will be to examine and analyze the planning and staffing needs for the City as he establishes the Department of City Planning. As Director, Graves will oversee the regulation of land use changes in the City of Cincinnati. Graves is assuming this position more than 20 years after he left the City of Cincinnati's Department of City Planning as a Senior City Planner.

"The City of Cincinnati welcomes Charles back as Director of the Planning Department," said Dohoney. "His impressive experience and extensive and solid education will help the city enormously as we strategize about how we can best grow the city. I am pleased he is part of the strong leadership team. "

"I am glad that the City Manager has selected such a qualified individual to lead the recreation of the Department of City Planning. Mr. Graves will have my full support to build a strong department," Mayor Mallory said. "Bringing back the Department of City Planning is one of my top priorities. We need a department that is focused on long term strategic planning for the city. Everything that the city does is interconnected, and we need to make sure that it is all moving toward the same vision."

Since August 2005, Graves worked as the Deputy Director of Long Range Planning in the Office of Planning for Washington, D.C. As director, Graves supervised staff and consultants in developing the 20-year Comprehensive Plan for the city in addition to overseeing the administration of the city's GIS system and data center.

In 2004, Graves founded the planning and real estate development consulting firm C.C. Graves and Associates. The company specializes in comprehensive and neighborhood planning, transportation, urban design, real estate development, housing financing, project management, marketing, construction and property management. The firm has extensive experience working with both for-profit and non-profit organizations as well as local, state and federal government.

Graves served as the Commissioner of Planning and Community Development for two years in Atlanta, GA, where he oversaw a staff of more than 250 people and six bureaus. Graves created Atlanta's first Housing Trust fund and Inclusionary Zoning District to create affordable housing in Atlanta while coordinating all aspects of Atlanta's planning function. Graves also managed Atlanta's Empowerment Zone program and the Enterprise Zone and Renewal Committee program as well. During his tenure, Graves assisted with the implementation of the city's economic development strategy and real estate acquisitions.

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From August 1993 to November 2002, Graves was Director of Planning for Baltimore, MD, where he coordinated the city's capital improvement budget and state bond requests. He recommended policies to the mayor, city council and state representatives. Graves directed and coordinated all aspects of the city's planning function, which included overseeing the Development of Neighborhood Plans and Downtown Development Plans, updating the City's Master plan, recommending rezoning requests, and developing the city's GIS computer system. Graves also worked to promote, attract and retain commercial and industrial businesses into the city during his time in Baltimore and assisted the implementation of redevelopment projects in the city's Urban Renewal areas for commercial and residential activities. He developed and created affordable housing and promoted home ownership in Baltimore as well.

Earlier in his career, Graves served as the Senior Planning Specialist for the Housing and Community Development department in Maryland, the Senior Planner/Community Development Administrator for the department of City Planning in Virginia and as the City Planner/Capital Improvements Planner for the Department of Planning and Development in Gary, IN.

Graves has prior experience with the City of Cincinnati, working from 1981 to 1986 as the Senior City Planner. He directed the development of the "Uptown" Sector Plan, reviewed neighborhood plans and updated the Comprehensive Plan for the City. He also worked on the development of a computerized inventory of vacant land for residential, commercial and industrial developments, which received a national award from the Council for Urban Economic Development.

Graves holds a Bachelor of Arts in Political Science and Urban Planning from Hampton University. He also received his Master of Science in Community Economic Development from New Hampshire College in 1988. Graves achieved a Certificate of Advanced Study from Harvard University's John F. Kennedy School of Government Program for Senior Executives in State and Local Government in 1995.

His starting salary is \$125,000.

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